



## Washington State Rail Plan

The Washington State Rail Plan will serve as a strategic blueprint for future public investment in the state's rail transportation system. It will provide an integrated plan for freight and passenger rail, including 5- and 20-year funding strategies, that meets federal and state requirements. The plan will inform the state Freight Mobility Plan; guide WSDOT as it develops strategic freight rail partnerships to support essential rail service; and establish priorities for determining which freight rail investments should receive public support. It will also guide Washington as it works with Oregon and British Columbia to implement intercity passenger rail service. WSDOT will release the final state rail plan by the end of 2013.

### Plan timeline



### Progress-to-date

WSDOT invited the public to participate in three workshops during Fall 2012. Over 150 participants shared their views about rail in public workshops held in Spokane and Seattle in October and November to help develop the next version of Washington's State Rail Plan. Participants included members of the public and representatives from industry, advocacy groups and public agencies who expressed interest in preserving and strengthening freight and passenger rail, funding sources and rail connectivity. Safety and maintenance and preservation issues were emphasized, and economic impacts discussed. The input will be used to develop the vision, goals, objectives and evaluation criteria for the state rail plan.

## Next steps

- Define the set of problems and demands that will be the focus of plan recommendations. Identify and evaluate capital projects, funding programs, operational improvements and policy changes to address those system needs and opportunities.
- Recommend priority actions to achieve vision and goals and create an implementation plan.
- Publish the draft state rail plan for public review and comment in summer 2013.

## Opportunities for involvement

Rail transportation is dependent on many partnerships between government agencies, private industry and other stakeholders. The plan cannot be successfully implemented without strong support which makes collaboration necessary for a successful outcome. The plan will be a product of broad participation. We are connecting with stakeholders and members of the public in a variety of ways:

***Stakeholder interviews:*** The purpose of these brief interviews is for information gathering and to solicit perspectives on the existing rail system and identify significant issues and opportunities for the near and long term.

***Stakeholder Advisory Committee:*** The committee, comprised of individuals selected from multiple rail constituencies, will act as a sounding board as we proceed through development of the plan.

***Public meetings (workshops and open house):*** Three meetings were held at the beginning of the process and more will follow with the release of the draft state rail plan to solicit public input.

In addition, the project team will provide briefings to groups, send email updates and post updates online throughout the project.

## For more information

To learn more about the project, receive our updates by email or request a small group briefing, please visit our website at:  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/staterailplan.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/staterailplan.htm) or contact:

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